by stressing the necessity for optimal utilisation of available resources within the organisation.

(iii) The costs like overtime and demurrage are being controlled through strict monetary limits.

(iv) SAIL has drawn up programmes of energy conservation.

These have been discussed at the Board level for implementation.

(v) A programme of modernisation is being undertaken to improve the condition of the plants.

Slow progress of Narmada Sagar Project

1774. SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) what are the factors responsible for the sold construction work at the Narmada Sagar Project;

(b) the time schedule for completion of the project; and

(c) the escalation in the cost due to slow progress?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) The slow progress is due to non-clearance of the project from environmental and forest angle and constraint of resources.

(b) The Dam and Power House are likely to be completed in a period of about 8 years after getting the necessary clearances and award of the works contract. The irrigation component is likely to take about two decades for completion.

(c) As the increase in cost is due to many factors including rise in prices, it is difficult to indicate the exact amount of increase on this account.

Core sector fertilizer plants

1775. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of core sector fertilizer plants, the capital investment made in each plant, and plant-wise production capacity of Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Potash;

(b) the date of commissioning of each plant;

(c) how many plants are more than twenty-five years old;

(d) what steps are being taken to modernise these plants; and

(e) whether it is a fact that per unit cost of production of Nitrogen Phosphorus and Potash, is more in all units; if so, the details regarding per unit cost of production of Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Potash, Plant-wise, particularly in respect of fertilizer plants of Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FERTILIZER IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. PRABHU): (a) and (b) A statement furnishing the information is attached.

[See Appendix CXL, Annexure No. 70]

(c) Udyogamandal of FACT and Nangal I of NFL are the two plants which are more than 25 years old.

(d) The managements of the above plants have proposed revamping and renovation of the plants.

(e) A comparison of the actual cost of production of nitrogenous and phosphatic fertilizers between the old and the new units cannot be made as unit-wise details are not available. Potash is not manufactured in the country and is totally imported. However, retention price in respect